



Illustration by John H. Rumely,
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SAUSSUREA Densa
DWARF SAW-WORT

Dwarf Saw-wort is a perennial that is 5-20 cm tall and arising from a woody rootstock. The lance-shaped leaf blades are coarsely toothed, up to 8 cm long and have a broad petiole. They are crowded alternately on the stem, reduced upward, and lack petioles towards the tops. Foliage is covered with long, tangled hairs when young but becomes glabrous with age. Purple flowering heads are borne in a dense cluster subtended by leaves at the top of the stem, made up entirely of disk flowers. The narrow involucral bracts of the heads are 11-15 mm long. The achene has a pappus of feathery bristles on top. Flowering in July-early August, fruiting in late August.

The *SAUSSUREA* genus is distinguished by clustered, purple, rayless flowering heads, and is restricted to rocky, high elevation habitat. This species differs from the similar *S. WEBERI* in that its involucral bracts are pointed.